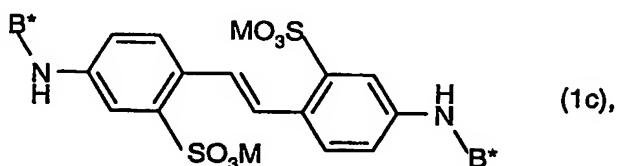
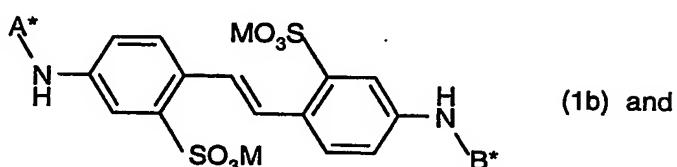
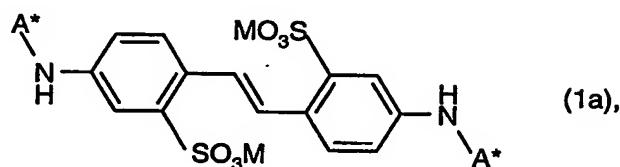


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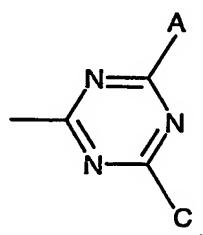
Claims

1. A fluorescent whitening agent, which comprises a mixture of compounds of the formulae



in which

A* represents a group of the formula

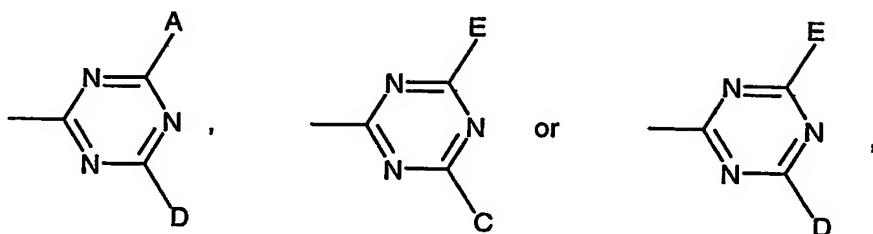


wherein

A represents $-X-Y-NR_3R_4$ and

C is $-NR_1R_2$ and

B* represents a group of the formula



wherein

D represents $-NR_5R_6$ and

E represents $-X_1-Y_1-NR_7R_8$, whereby

X and X_1 each, independently of each other, represent $-O-$ or $-NH-$,

Y and Y_1 each, independently of each other, represent a straight-chain C_2-C_8 alkylene or branched C_3-C_8 alkylene chain, which may be interrupted by one or two nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur atoms or represent a 5- or 6-membered cycloaliphatic ring,

R_1 , R_2 , R_5 and R_6 each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl,

C_2-C_4 hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy C_1-C_4 alkyl, phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_4 alkyl or sulphonamido, or

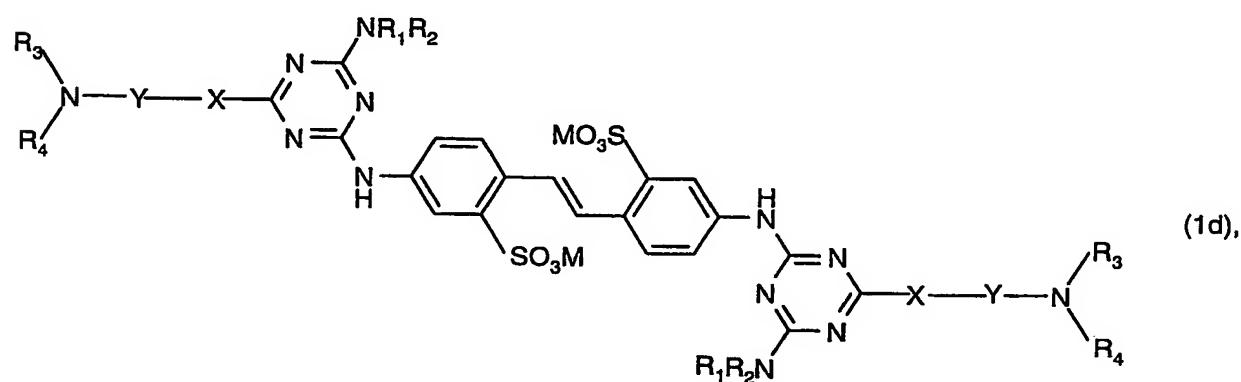
R_1 and R_2 and /or R_5 and R_6 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino- piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R_3 , R_4 , R_7 and R_8 , each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_4 hydroxyalkyl or

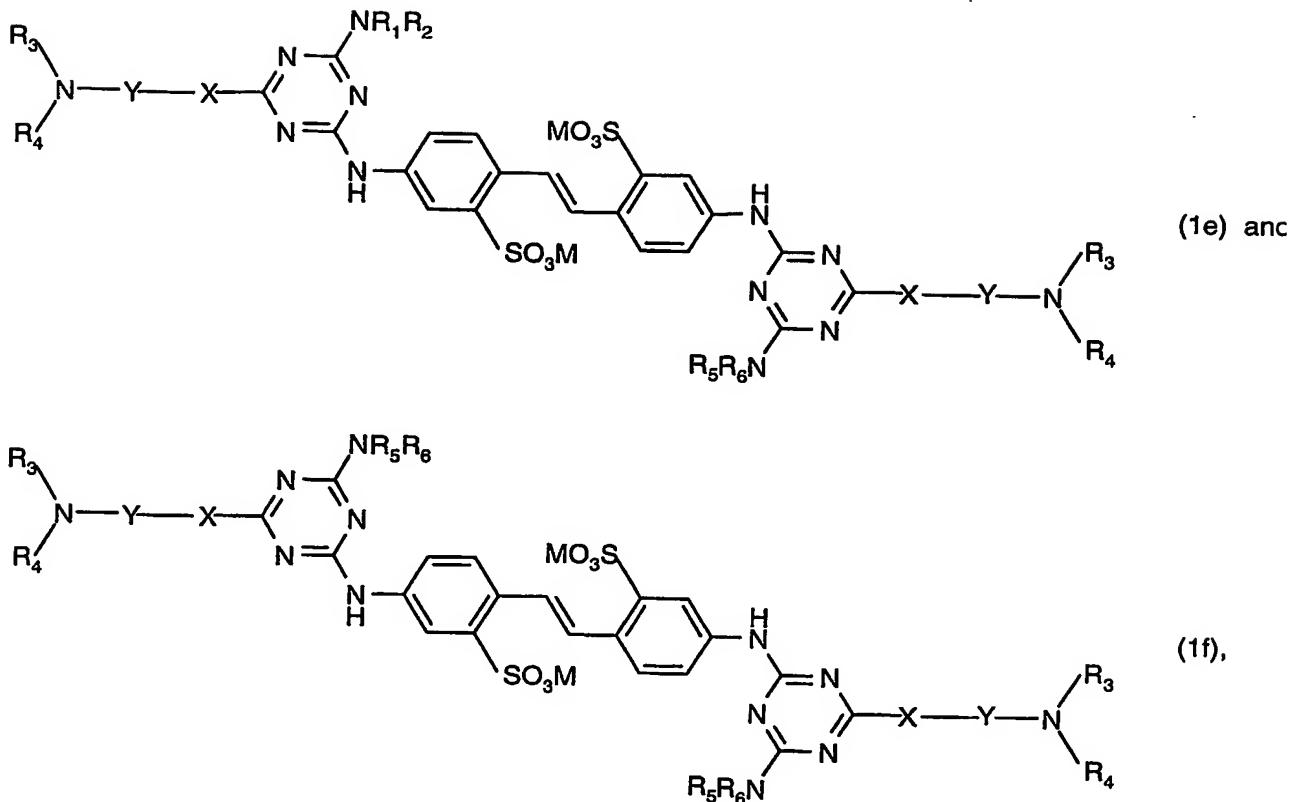
R_3 and R_4 and/or R_7 and R_8 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring and

M represents hydrogen, an alkaline or alkaline earth metal, ammonium or alkylammonium.

2. A fluorescent whitening agent, according to claim 1, which comprises a mixture of compounds of the formulae



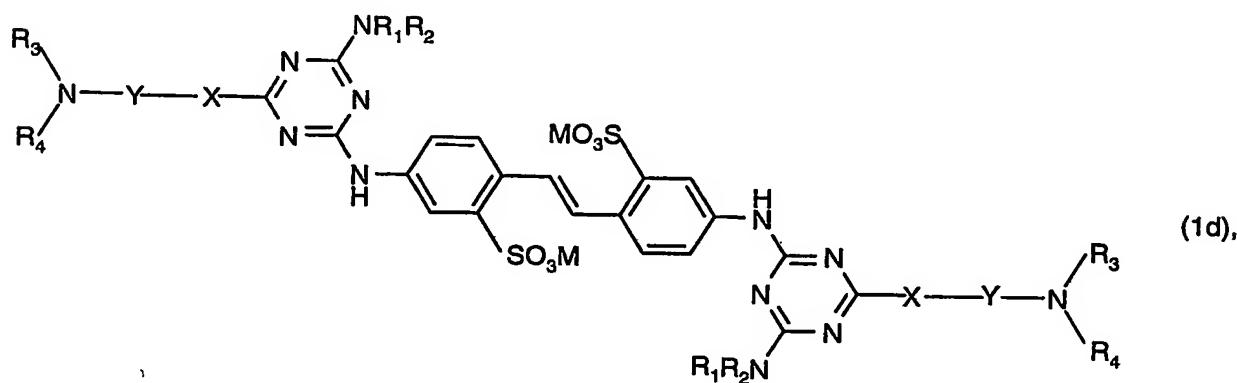
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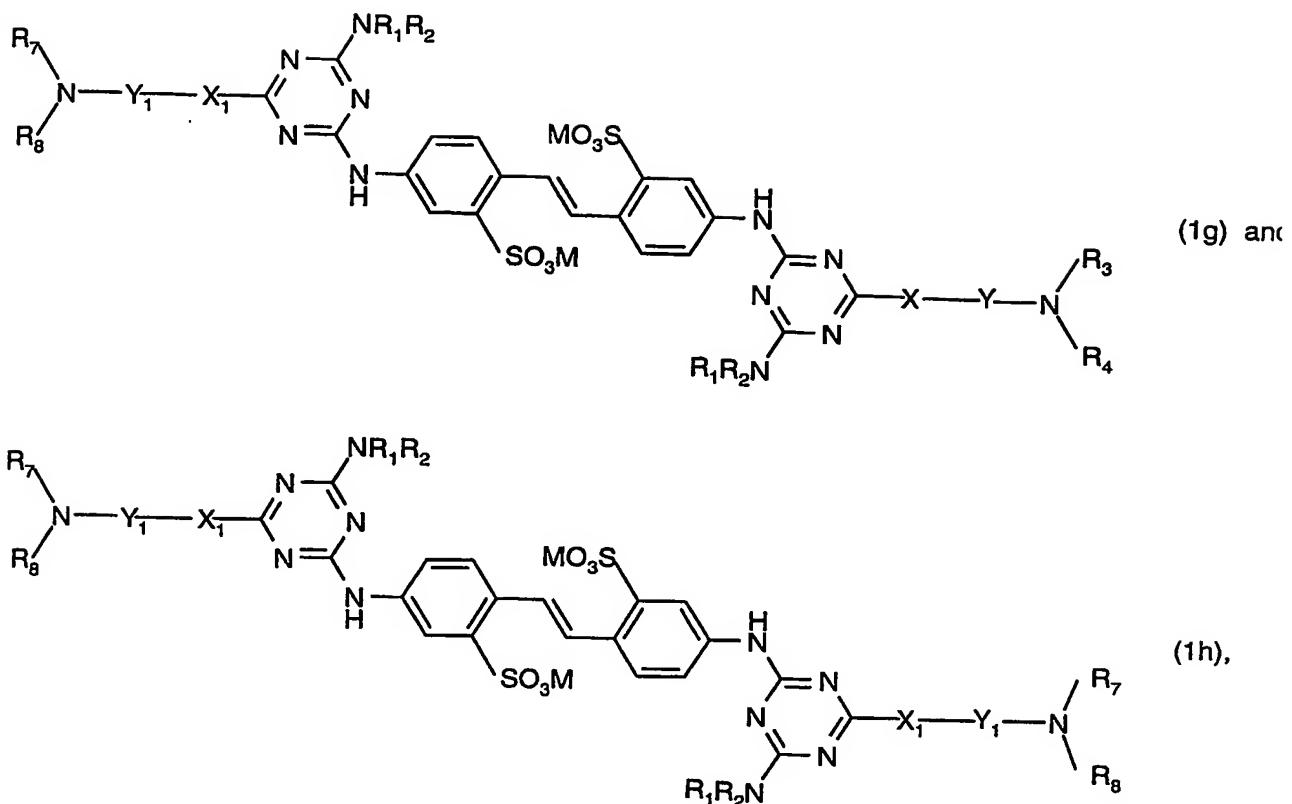
in which

X, Y, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆ and M are as defined in claim 1.

3. A fluorescent whitening agent, according to claim 1, which comprises a mixture of compounds of the formulae



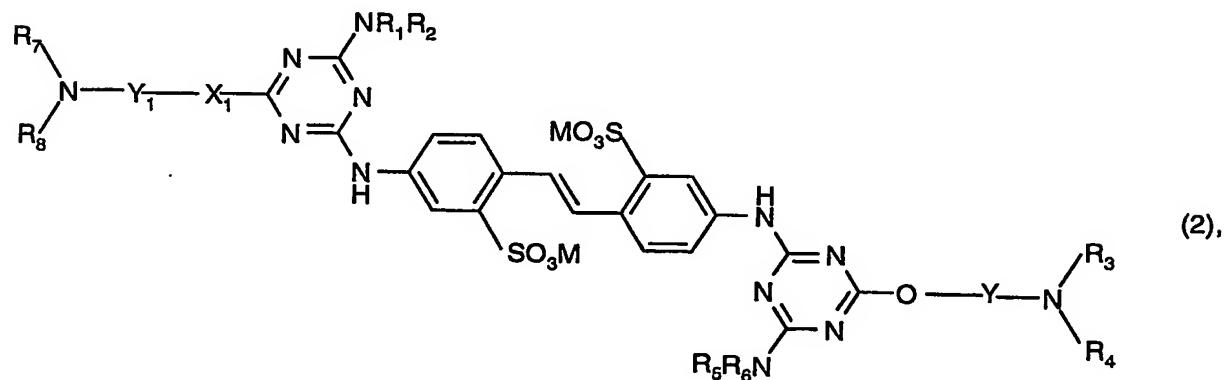
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in which

$X, X_1, Y, Y_1, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_7, R_8$ and M are as defined in claim 1.

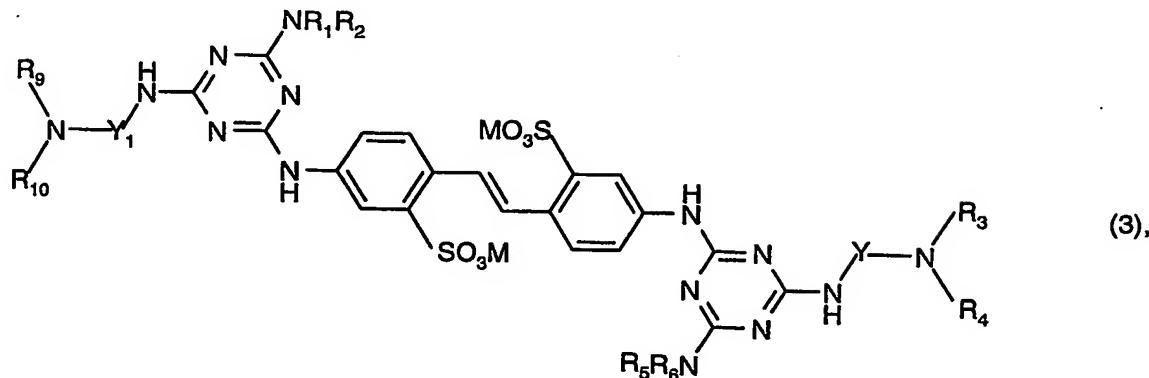
4. A compound of formula



in which

$X_1, Y, Y_1, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8$ and M are as defined in claim 1

5. A compound of the formula



in which

R_9 and R_{10} , each independently of each other, represent hydrogen or C_2 - C_4 hydroxyalkyl and Y , Y_1 , R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , and M are as defined in claim 1, with the proviso that when Y and Y_1 both represent $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, R_1 and R_5 are both phenyl and R_2 and R_6 are both hydrogen, R_3 , R_4 , R_9 and R_{10} are not all $-CH_2CH_2OH$.

6. A process for the preparation of a mixture of compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to claim 1, by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulphonic acid, amino compounds of formulae R_1R_2NH and R_5R_6NH or mixtures thereof and compounds of formulae R_3R_4YXH and $R_7R_8Y_1X_1H$ or mixtures thereof, X , X_1 , Y , Y_1 , R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 and R_8 being as defined in claim 1.

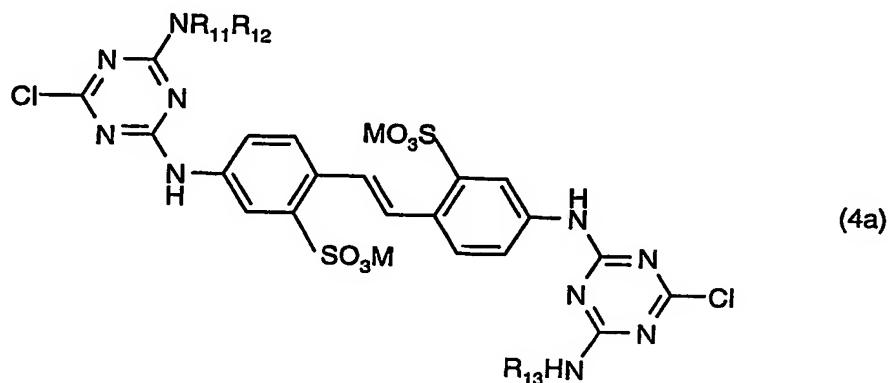
7. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (2), according to claim 4, by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulphonic acid, an amino compound of formula R_1R_2NH , an amino compound of formula R_5R_6NH , a hydroxy compound of formula R_3R_4NYOH and a compound of formula $R_7R_8NY_1X_1H$, X_1 , Y , Y_1 , R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 and R_8 being as defined in claim 1.

8. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (3), according to claim 5, by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulphonic acid, an amino compound of

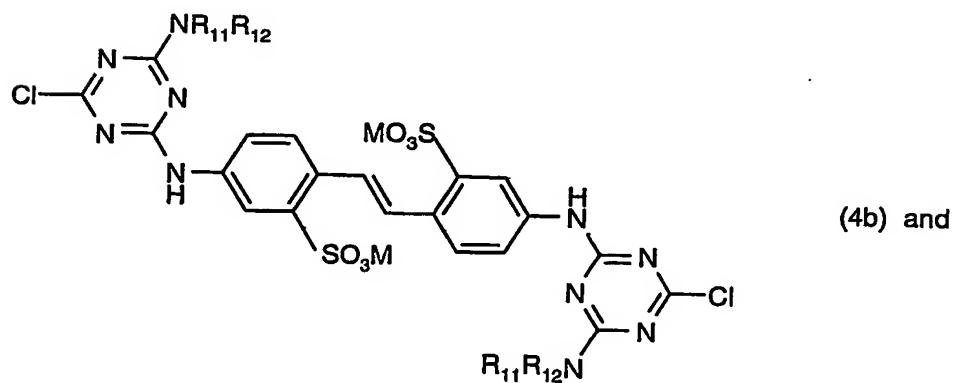
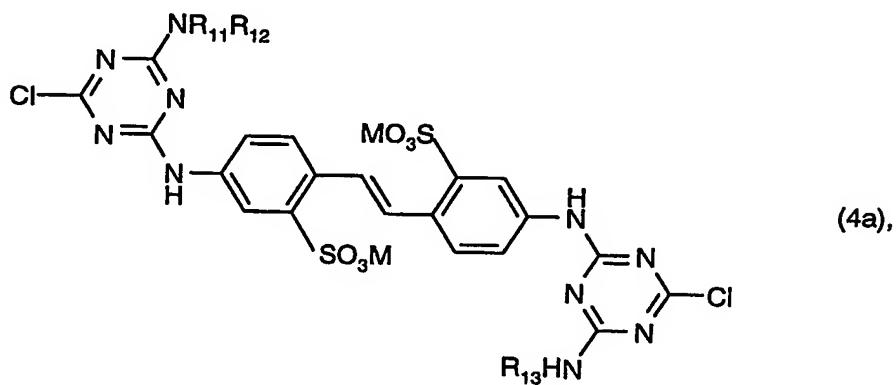
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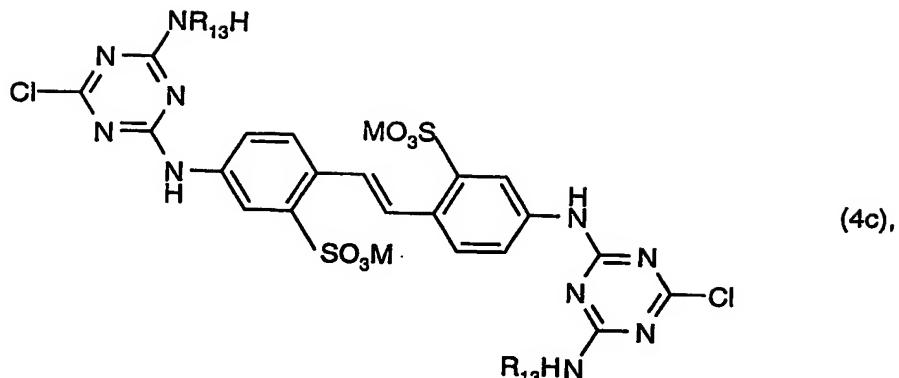
formula R_1R_2NH , an amino compound of formula R_5R_6NH , an amino compound of formula $R_3R_4NYNH_2$ and a compound of formula $R_9R_{10}NY_1NH_2$,
 $Y, Y_1, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_9$ and R_{10} being as defined in claims 1 and 5.

9. A compound of the formula



or a mixture comprising compounds of the formulae





in which

R_{11} and R_{12} , each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_2 - C_4 hydroxyalkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy C_1 - C_4 alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,
 R_{13} represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 alkyl or sulphonamido and
 M represents hydrogen, an alkaline or alkaline earth metal, ammonium or alkyl ammonium.

10. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (4a) or a mixture of compounds of formulae (4a), (4b) and (4c), according to claim 9, by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulphonic acid, an amino compound of formula $R_{11}R_{12}NH$ and an amino compound of formula $R_{13}NH_2$ or with a mixture of amino compounds $R_{11}R_{12}NH$ and $R_{13}NH_2$, R_{11} , R_{12} and R_{13} being as previously defined in claim 9.

11. Use of the compound of formula (4a), according to claim 9, for the preparation of a compound of formula (2), according to claim 3, in which, in formula (2),
 R_1 and R_2 each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_2 - C_4 hydroxyalkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy C_1 - C_4 alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,
 R_5 represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 alkyl or sulphonamido,
 R_6 represents hydrogen and
 X_1 , Y_1 , R_3 , R_4 , R_7 , R_8 and M are as defined in claim 1;
for the preparation of compound of formula (3), according to claim 5, in which, in formula (3), R_1 and R_2 each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl,

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C_2 - C_4 hydroxyalkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy C_1 - C_4 alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R_5 represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 alkyl or sulphonamido,

R_6 represents hydrogen and

Y , Y_1 , R_3 , R_4 , R_9 , R_{10} , and M are as previously defined in claims 1 and 5 respectively or use of the mixture of compounds of formulae (4a), (4b) and (4c), according to claim 9, for the preparation of a mixture of compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to claim 1, in which, in formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c),

R_1 and R_2 each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl,

C_2 - C_4 hydroxyalkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy C_1 - C_4 alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R_5 represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 alkyl or sulphonamido,

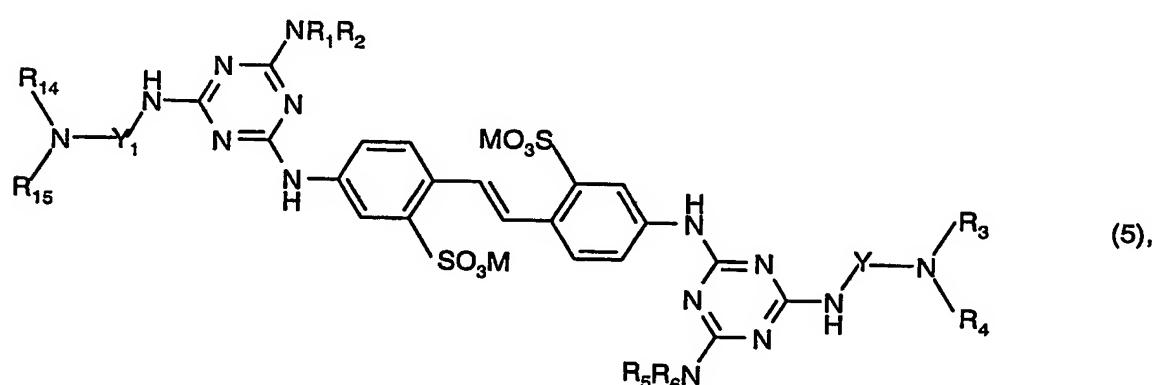
R_6 represents hydrogen and

X , X_1 , Y , Y_1 , R_3 , R_4 , R_7 , R_8 and M are as defined in claim 1.

12. Use of the mixture of compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to claim 1, for the fluorescent whitening of paper.

13. Use of the compound of formula (2), according to claim 4, for the fluorescent whitening of paper.

14. Use of the compound of formula



in which

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R_{14} and R_{15} , each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl or C₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl and

Y, Y₁, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, and M are as defined in claim 1, for the fluorescent whitening of paper.

15. Paper, which has been treated with a fluorescent whitening agent comprising either a mixture of compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to claim 1, a compound of formula (2), according to claim 4 or a compound of formula (5), according to claim 14.